

RESOLUTION NO. 20170810-033

WHEREAS, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition's (ECHO) 2016 report indicated that 2,800 households (3,700 individuals) experienced homelessness, with 37.3% of those households classified as chronically homeless. Out of that 37%, 305 chronically homeless households have children and 40% of those experiencing chronic homelessness are over 42 years old; and

WHEREAS, as nonprofit organizations, public entities, and other philanthropic groups attempt to secure housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, overcrowding and increased demand in Downtown shelters have resulted in unsafe and unsanitary conditions; and

WHEREAS, some individuals experiencing homelessness do not seek or have access to services in Downtown areas and are seeking services and shelter in areas throughout the city, including neighborhoods, which contributes to unsafe and unsanitary conditions; and

WHEREAS, over the past summer, representatives from ECHO, Austin Public Health, Travis County Integral Care, the Austin Police Department, Front Steps, the Salvation Army, Caritas, Downtown Austin Alliance, Downtown Austin Community Court, the offices of the Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor, the City of Austin Innovation Office, and many more have met weekly to create coordinated strategies that swiftly and effectively address the issues affecting those who experience homelessness and seek services Downtown; and

WHEREAS, representatives from neighborhoods, ECHO, EMS, APD, TxDOT, CapMetro, local churches, and other social service agencies have been meeting in various parts of the city to identify solutions to more effectively connect

individuals to needed services and address public health and safety issues impacting neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, as shelters, nonprofit providers, and other stakeholders begin implementing these strategies, both in the Downtown area and in specific neighborhoods, the stakeholders have agreed that an emergency temporary shelter is a vital component to the overall plan in addressing and alleviating the overcrowding of the Downtown shelters and addressing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, Council approved Resolution No. 20161013-008, which directed the City Manager to identify properties within the City's real estate portfolio suitable for the development of one or more emergency shelters; and

WHEREAS, the response to Resolution No. 20161013-008 is still in progress; however, this research may help inform the endeavor of identifying a suitable location for one or more emergency temporary shelters; and

WHEREAS, the extreme conditions that homeless individuals face Downtown and in other parts of the city require prompt and swift action, but the action contemplated in this resolution should not detract from the ongoing efforts to provide and secure permanent supportive housing and other housing strategies for those experiencing homelessness; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

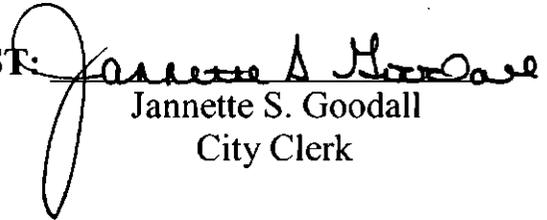
The City Manager is directed to assess City-owned buildings and identify at least five possibilities for one or more temporary, short-term emergency shelters. This ranking should include the building's compatibility as a shelter, such as existing amenities within the building, square footage, safety, proximity to transit and social

services, and other factors the City Manager deems appropriate. Of those assessed and identified buildings, the City Manager should establish as a priority identifying 1) at least one location for a temporary shelter which will address issues related to overcrowding of Downtown shelters, and 2) at least one location for a temporary shelter which addresses individuals experiencing homelessness and seeking services and/or living in other parts of the city. This second identified location could be used as a pilot for establishing shelters that will address the service connection and public health and safety issues experienced by neighborhoods outside the Downtown area.

The City Manager is directed to return to the Council with a memo or presentation regarding possible options, as well as an estimate for the cost of operation and maintenance, by August 24, 2017.

ADOPTED: August 10, 2017

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk